

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A method for starting an engine of a vehicle, comprising:

checking by a control unit, in the event of a starting command, whether the vehicle is stationary;

if the vehicle is stationary, activating at least one vehicle brake;

after the activation of the vehicle brake, authorizing a starting of the engine;

if the vehicle is not stationary, authorizing a starting of the engine without a brake intervention; and

automatically starting the engine after the starting of the engine is authorized.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

if the vehicle is stationary, releasing the at least one vehicle brake after an engine startup.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

in the event a starting authorization is not present within a predefined time period following an existence of one of the starting command and a starting authorization request associated therewith, excluding an automatic start of the engine.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the starting is authorized only if a determination is made that a drive system of the vehicle is disengaged from the engine.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the starting is authorized only if a determination is made that a clutch of the vehicle is actuated.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
if the vehicle is stationary, releasing the at least one vehicle brake after an engine startup; and
automatically starting the engine after the starting of the engine is authorized.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the starting is authorized only if a determination is made that a drive system of the vehicle is disengaged from the engine.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the starting is authorized only if a determination is made that a clutch of the vehicle is actuated.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
if the vehicle is stationary, releasing the at least one vehicle brake after an engine startup; and
in the event a starting authorization is not present within a predefined time period following an existence of one of the starting command and a starting authorization request associated therewith, excluding an automatic start of the engine.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the starting is authorized only if a determination is made that a drive system of the vehicle is disengaged from the engine.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the starting is authorized only if a determination is made that a clutch of the vehicle is actuated.

22. (Canceled).

23. (New) An apparatus for starting an engine of a vehicle, comprising:

a control unit configured to check, in the event of a starting command, whether the vehicle is stationary; and

at least one vehicle brake,

wherein if the vehicle is stationary, the control unit is configured to activate the at least one vehicle brake and to authorize starting of the engine after activation of the at least one vehicle brake, and wherein if the vehicle is not stationary, the control unit is configured to authorize starting of the engine without a brake intervention

24. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein if the vehicle is stationary, the control unit is configured to release the at least one vehicle brake after an engine startup.

25. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein in the event a starting authorization is not present within a predefined time period following an existence of one of the starting command and a starting authorization request associated therewith, the control unit is configured to exclude an automatic start of the engine.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the control unit is configured to authorize starting only if a determination is made that a drive system of the vehicle is disengaged from the engine.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the control unit is configured to authorize starting only if a determination is made that a clutch of the vehicle is actuated.

28. (New) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein if the vehicle is stationary, the control unit is configured to release the at least one vehicle brake after an engine startup, and wherein in the event a starting authorization is not present within a predefined time period following an existence of one of the starting command and a starting authorization request associated therewith, the control unit is configured to exclude an automatic start of the engine.

29. (New) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the control unit is configured to authorize starting only if a determination is made that a drive system of the vehicle is disengaged from the engine.

30. (New) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the control unit is configured to authorize starting only if a determination is made that a clutch of the vehicle is actuated.